



### 3-6 DISCOVER The Belle Fourche

The Belle Fourche River was called “beautiful fork” by the French fur traders of the past. Cottonwood trees line the riverbank as it winds below Devils Tower. The top of the Tower rises 1,267 feet (386 meters) above the river.

Once, the mighty river of long, long ago helped to shape the surrounding countryside and the Tower. Today, its woodland habitat supports many plants and animals that have adapted to its special environment.

Camping along the river is a favorite activity for visitors today. It was like this in the past, first among the Native Americans and then the early settlers. One old time resident is believed to have stated that he had to **ford** (cross) the river seven times before reaching the Monument camping area. He lived only ten miles by way of today's modern roads!

You may have the opportunity to see a cottontail rabbit grazing or a family of whitetail deer passing by. You may notice the redtail hawk or golden eagle soaring overhead. You definitely can't miss the music of the many birds singing their favorite songs.

